

**UNION CITY
COMMUNITY
HIGH SCHOOL**

UNION CITY, IN

**ARCHITECTURE
IN
THE
FIRST
PERSON**

A VIEW OF A HIGH SCHOOL AS SEEN IN THE MIND
OF BLADE ALEXANDER HAUTH ON MAY 19, 1981

ARCHITECTURE IN THE FIRST PERSON /

UNION CITY COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

Architecture is a word.

Architecture is a verb.

Architecture is the relationship between the environment and intelligent life.

BACKGROUND

Union City is a small town divided by the Indiana - Ohio state line. There are two thousand residents on the Ohio side with their schools, fire stations, and town hall and there are four thousand residents on the Indiana side of the line with duplicate services. Though there is a strong industrial base with the Union City Body Co. and the Westinghouse plant the commercial aspects in the town have dwindled in the past several years. Most people who live in Union City work in town. It is not a bedroom community in terms of work, but they must go outside the community to shop and or to find recreation. There are no theatres or cinemas in town; the closest one is a drive in twenty miles away. There is a very small public library, but there are no YMCAs, gyms, pools or roller skating rinks. There are no colleges or museums. Though economically independent the town must depend upon neighboring cities like Dayton or Muncie for their culture.

During the past two decades the Randolph Eastern School Corporation has resisted the trend toward county wide consolidation. The town's people have stated their preference for maintaining their schools as an integral part of their community. Outside of the factories the high school is the largest institution in town and as such is the focus of the town. Considering the decentralized pull of the larger cities it becomes even more important to increase the magnetism of the school. The present facility besides being too small has attraction of a garage.

I love architecture

THE PROBLEM

This structure is to be the educational center for five hundred high school students, thirty teachers, ten staff members, and a community of four thousand. The ability to involve the entire town in school activities is seen as a key to creating a successful educational environment. To entice adults into the school the building will contain a theatre that can be used for meetings, movies, plays, and concerts, a television station, the town's public library, complete art studios and shops, and recreational facilities like a pool and gym. The school also offers many night classes from sewing to college English.

The challenge is to design a building that will suit the needs and goals of the community, the administration, the teachers, and the students. The community has two basic desires for the building. First they want the building to be used as much as possible so they feel it was worth the money. Secondly they want to be able to have pride in the building as they take pride in the school's

The problem, ARCHITECTURE, what is it. I know that I have dedicated my life to it and I have spent five years studying the subject yet I cannot pinpoint the meaning of the word. Is it shelter? Shelter is a universal need like food and water. Is architecture universal? the idea is pleasing. It seems trivial to dedicated ones life to a thing that is not universal but transitory. Architecture may have been shelter at one time, but it isn't that way any longer. We could not survive without shelter, but there is much architecture that we could live without. I don't think God would die if he did not have a home to go to every night. Architecture was transformed when man started altering the environment for social and psychological reasons. Architecture is not a need constant and unchanging. The meaning of definition of architecture change as the goals for the environment change. Architecture became a symbol.

athletic teams. The administration desires a structure that is easy to maintain, cheap to maintain and easy to police. The teachers want comfortable relaxing classrooms that they can control and take possession of. The students are in a transformation time of their lives. They want to take control of their lives yet at the same time they want to be told what to do. They are struggling for a sense of identity. They need places that they can shape and own.

OBJECTIVES

1. Space must be flexible or at least contain flexible elements that can alter the space so teachers can shape their classroom and students can shape space in their lounges and hallways
2. The standard hallway must be avoided. Circulation is to be treated as a series of events in time. There should be variety. The hallway should be a pleasurable adventure.
3. Zoning in the building will be very important with the great diversity of uses and users. Access and control are also major issues.
4. To create existential space.
To create space that people remember and identify with, become intimate with.

Are symbols universal? That is the goal of a symbol. The better a symbol the more people will understand the symbol or the idea behind the symbol. A symbol may be recognized, but that does not mean that it is understood and even if it is thought to be understood does not mean that it is being understood in the same way.

SPACE REQUIREMENTS

Auditorium

audience seating	4950
stage	3500
projection booth	225
dressing room	400
property storage	1000
television studio	1450
music room	2100

Library

stacks	1550
periodicals	260
card catalogue	100
readers guide	100
verticle file	81
circulation desk	124
office	85
work room	188
audio-visual room	150
seminar room (2)	472
reading room	1690

Sport and Fitness Center

Gym	17606
men's lockerroom	1658
women's lockerroom	1658
weight and exercise room	1500
natatorium	8685

Office

outer office	415
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principal	156
assistant principal	156
conference room	165
duplication	174
clinic	152
guidance office	253
Fine and Practical Arts	
metal shop	2000
wood shop	2500
drawing studio	900
ceramic studio	1000
paint room	800
clean up	200
auto mechanics	1700
home economics	1600
faculty workroom	300
Language Arts	
classrooms (6)	4800
language lab	800
faculty workroom	420
Social Studies	
classrooms (4)	3200
faculty workroom	240
Mathematics	
classrooms (4)	3200
faculty workroom	240
Business	
classrooms (2)	1600
typing room	800
D E C A room	800

faculty workroom	240
Special Education	600
Science	
biology lab	1200
plant and animal room	200
chemistry lab	1200
classroom	800
faculty workroom	250
Cafeteria	
kitchen	1850
dining room	3025
Student lounges	2500
Faculty Lounges	420
Circulation	27500
Mechanical	7600
Toilets	2060
Janitor's Closets	585
Storage	630
Structure	9700

TOTAL

138413 sq. ft.

Concept 1

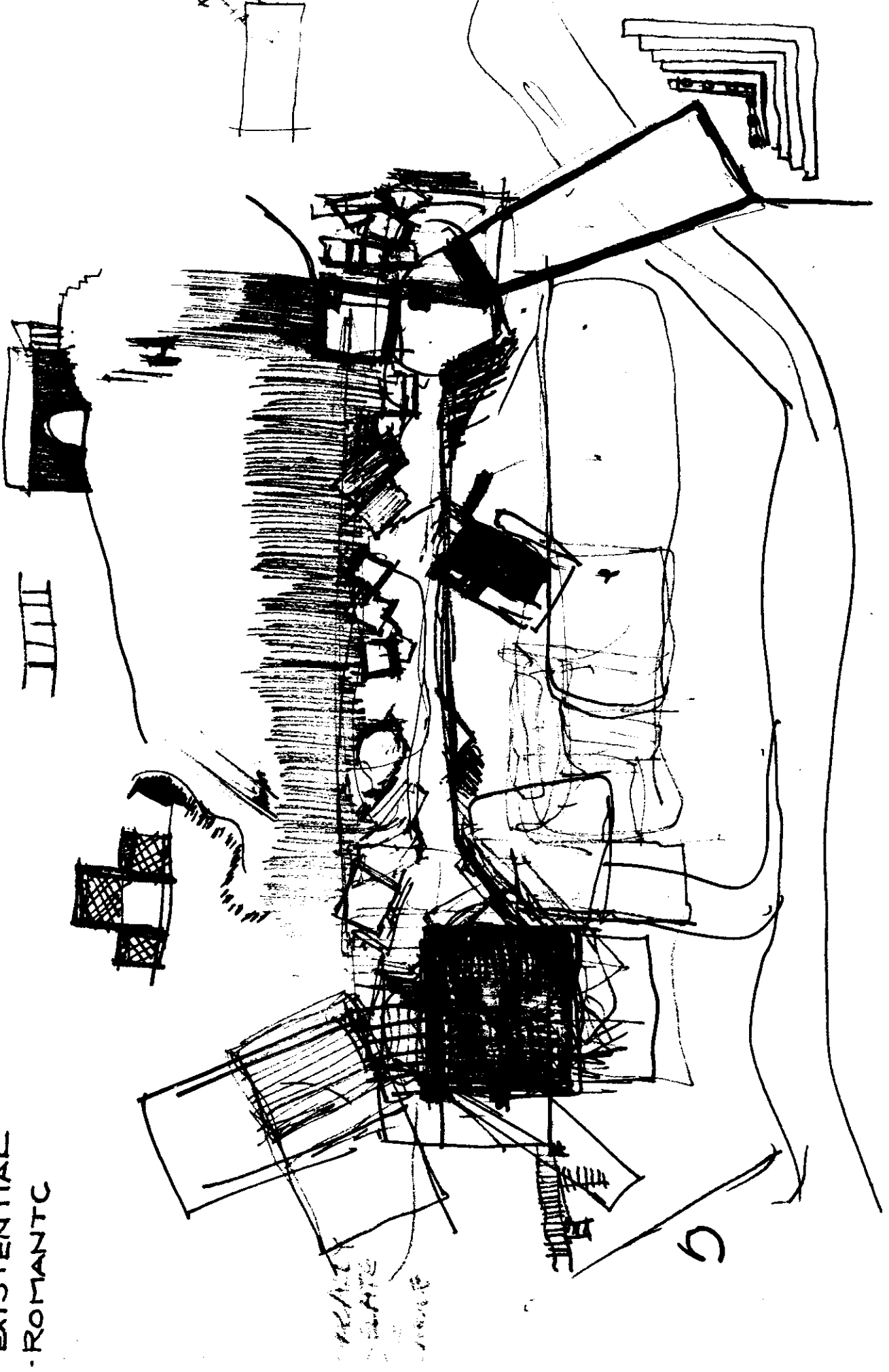
The school was seen as a street that connected two plazas. Each classroom was seen as a separate building all within a larger structure. The street became a collection of building fragments with in fills. One plaza was outside of the library with the library serving as the romantic node. Object in space. The theatre was the other node, existential in nature. Pure Space.



ARCHITECTURE IS A WORD

We use them all the time and just take for granted that their meanings are universal. Language is a very crude tool and linguistics is a very imprecise science. There are dozens of meanings for every word. For every word (symbol) there are as many meanings as there are people who use the word

-EXISTENTIAL-
-ROMANTIC



THE WALL

A wall is a primary concept. It is structural it sperates space or activities. It serves as a m marker. They are strong and safe. Masonry walls have great texture.

Wall one is from Aldo Rossi it is not mine

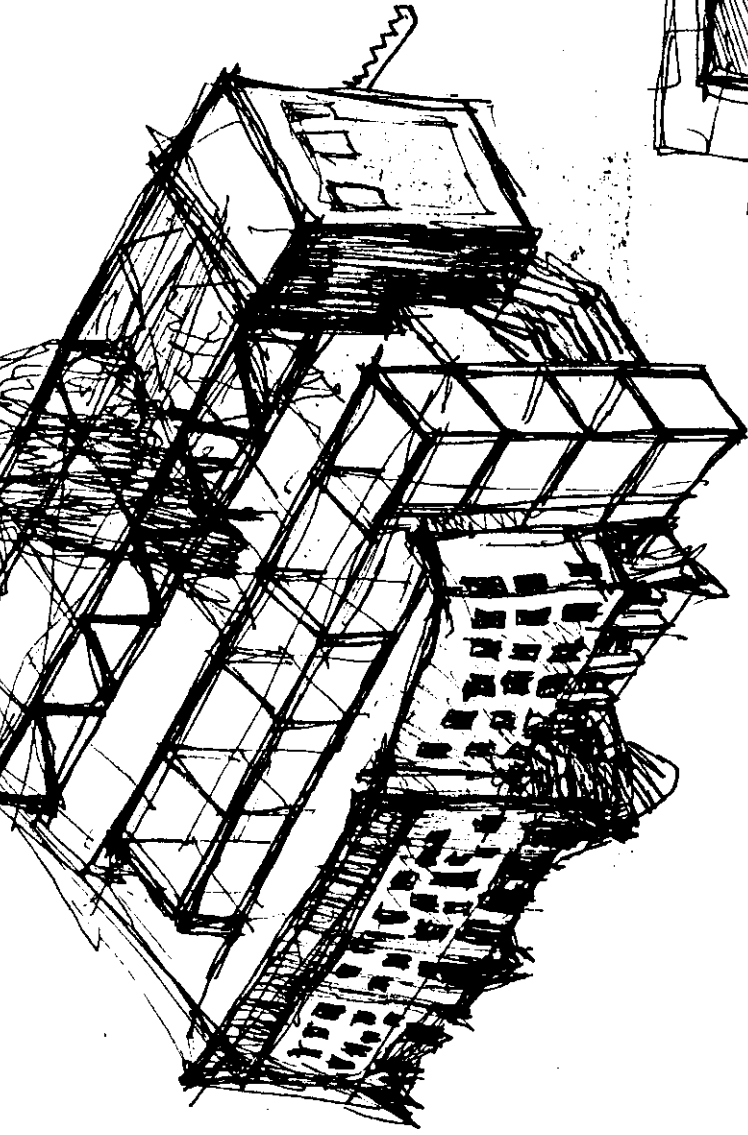
Wall two is from a movie studio's property room eclectic and random at the same time

Wall three is mine, it is still stiff and restrained with a little roman ruins thrown in. Space become trapped within the walls, small personal secure spaces.

Wall four is mine with the stops pulled out. it is free and the space that was trapped is set free to flow around the silos which have pulled themselves from the wall. They contain student lockers and study spaces.

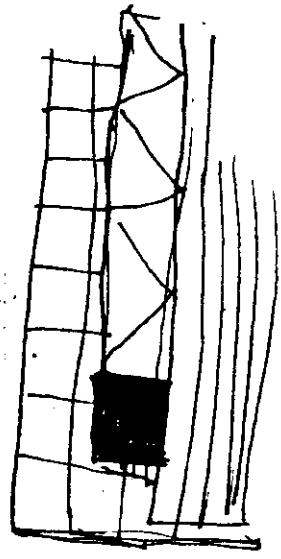
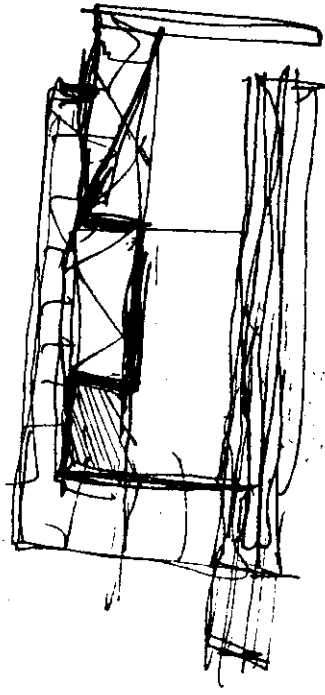
ARCHITECTURE IS A VERB

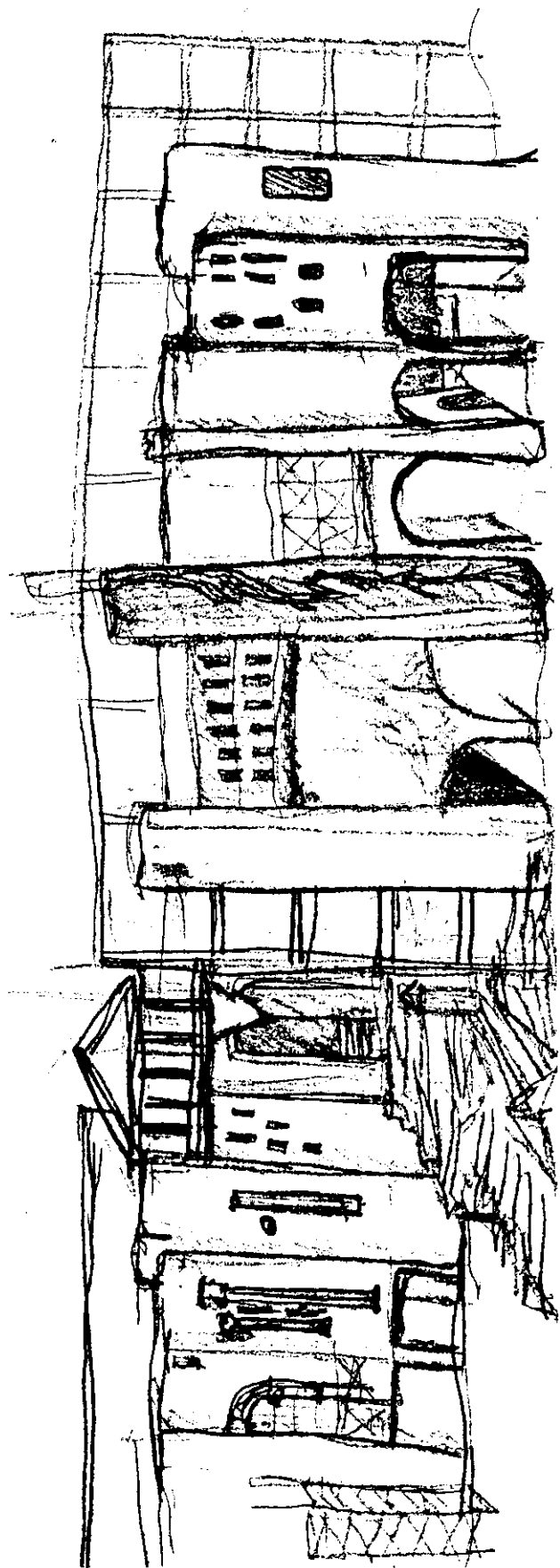
Architecture is the relationship between the built environment and intelligent life. It is held in the mind unique to the individual. It is the process of forming a relationship. Its nature is constantly changing.

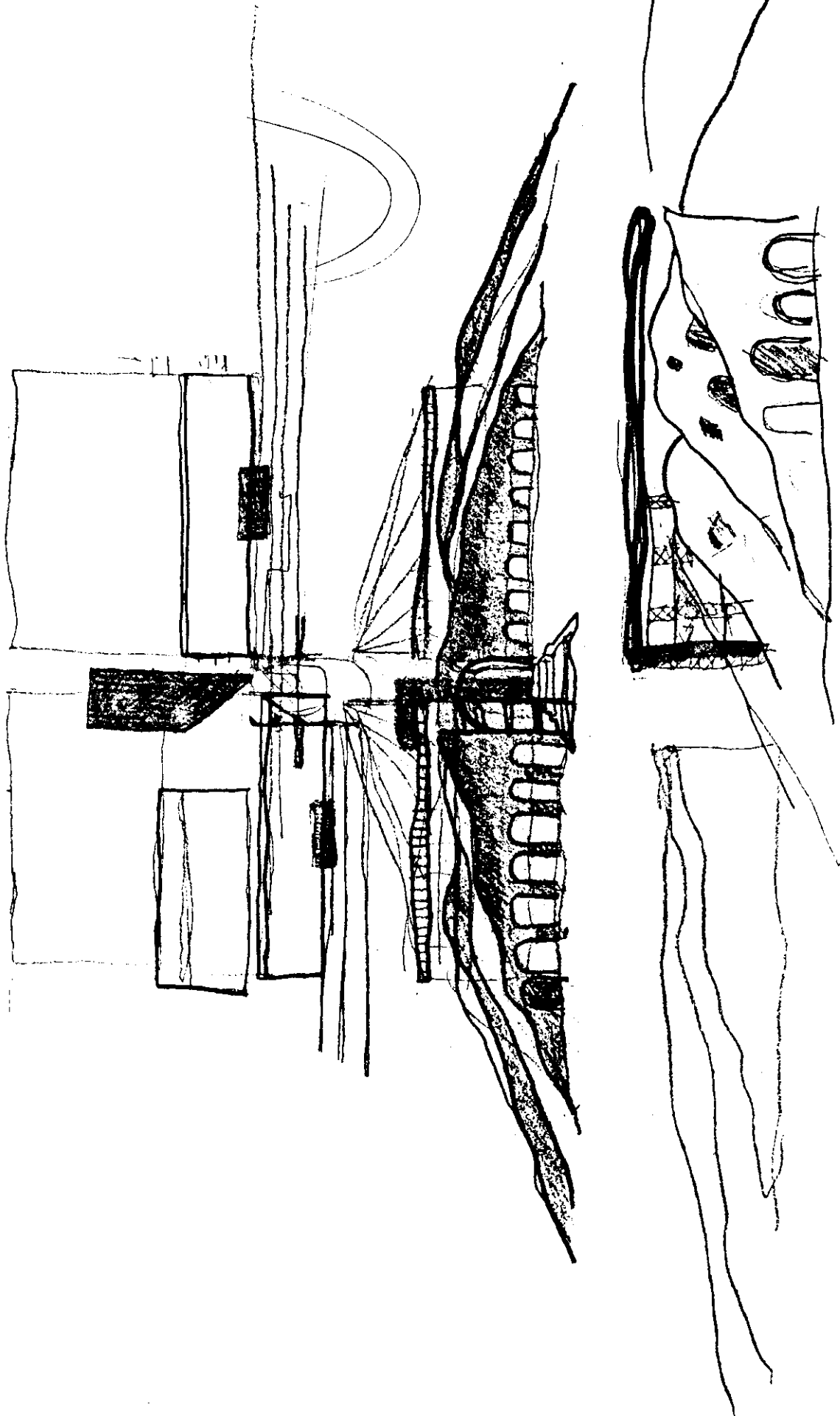


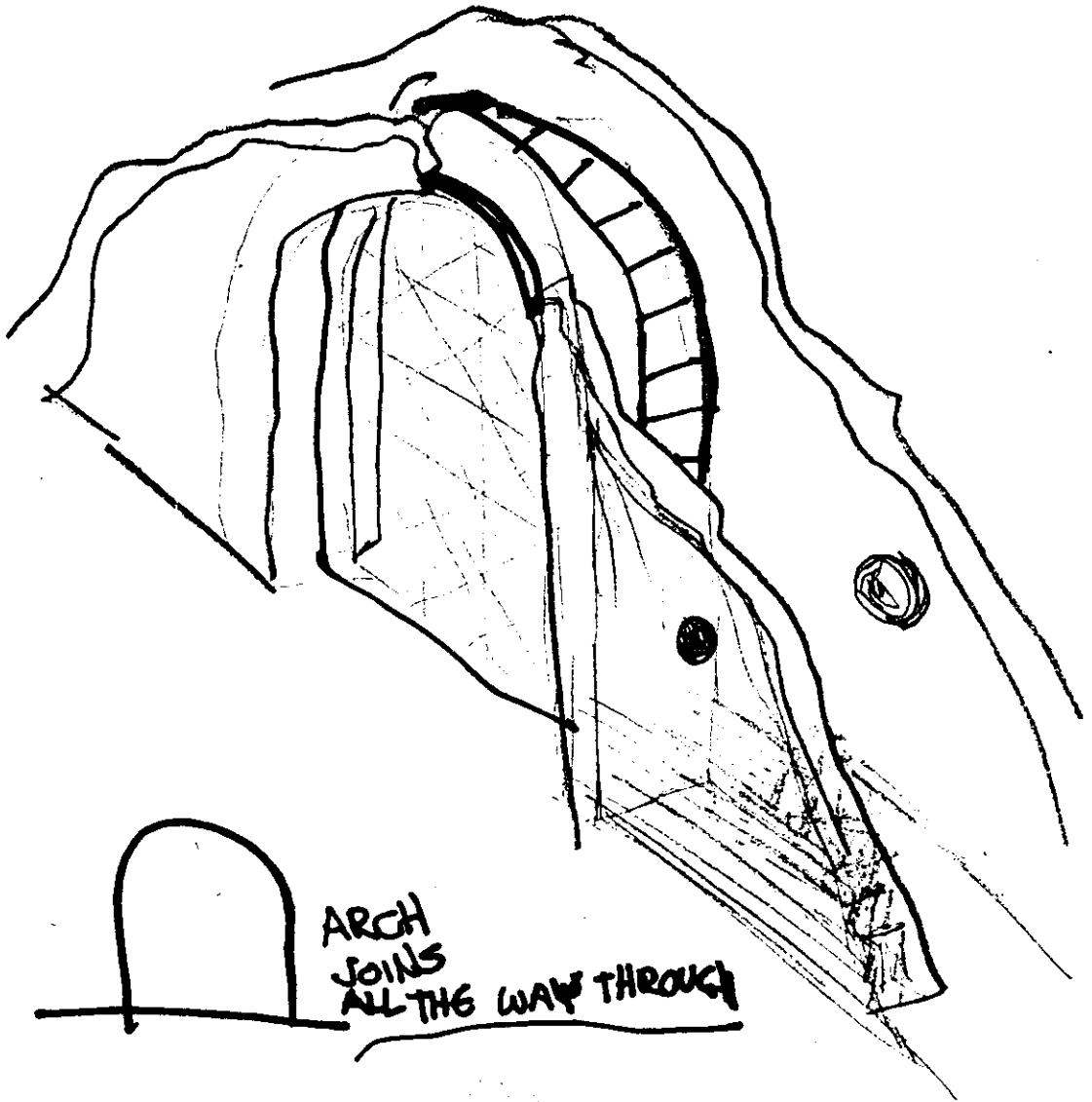
The building is like a Jigsaw Puzzle
the pieces have individual meaning
and they maintain that shape and
interlock with other pieces to
reveal a whole picture.

a building is a puzzle waiting
for the user to fit it together
and comprehend a meaning. The difference
a building has many potential meanings
the puzzle only one.

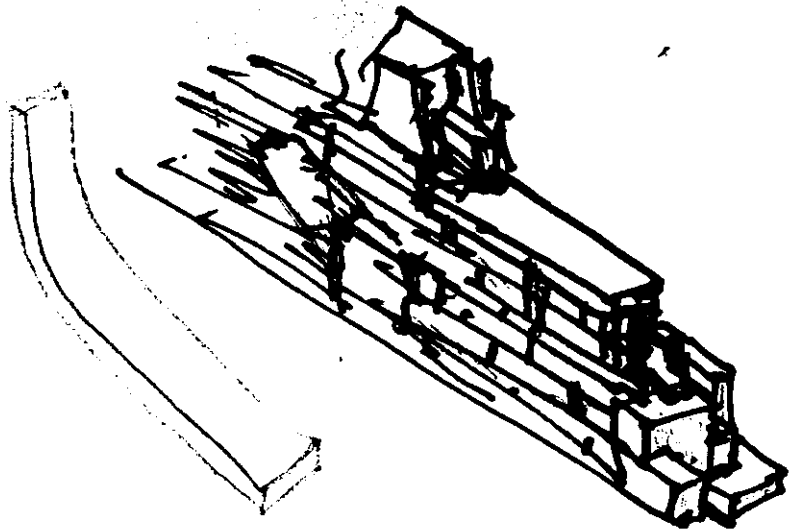








ARCH
JOINS
ALL THE WAY THROUGH





ARCHITECTURE IN THE FIRST PERSON

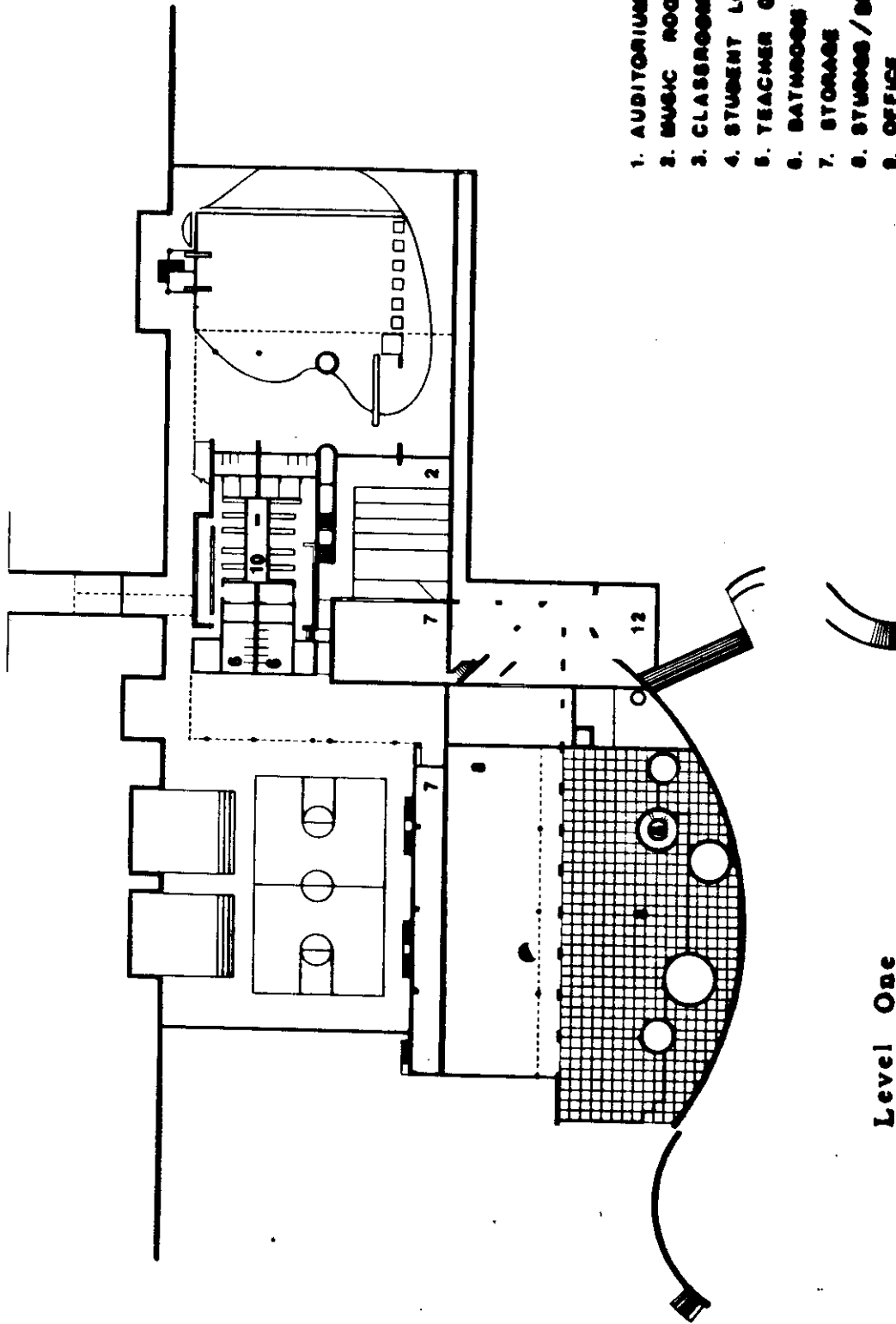
The following drawings partially relate my relationship with Union City Community High School.

The building is zoned simply. From the parking lot you must pass through the wall, the ivory tower of education to get to the public spaces in the rear. There is no distinction between usable spaces and circulation. Time is the only distinction.

The school is a puzzle with overlays and interlocking parts. Spaces slide over and under each other. The major pieces are the wall which is permanently fixed it is secure, a marker in space. The silos are storage areas for students and teachers; they are fixed as well. The space frame is light and airy. It is flexible, like ivy it covers every thing. The black marble fly tower is the black mystery box. It is unexplainable.

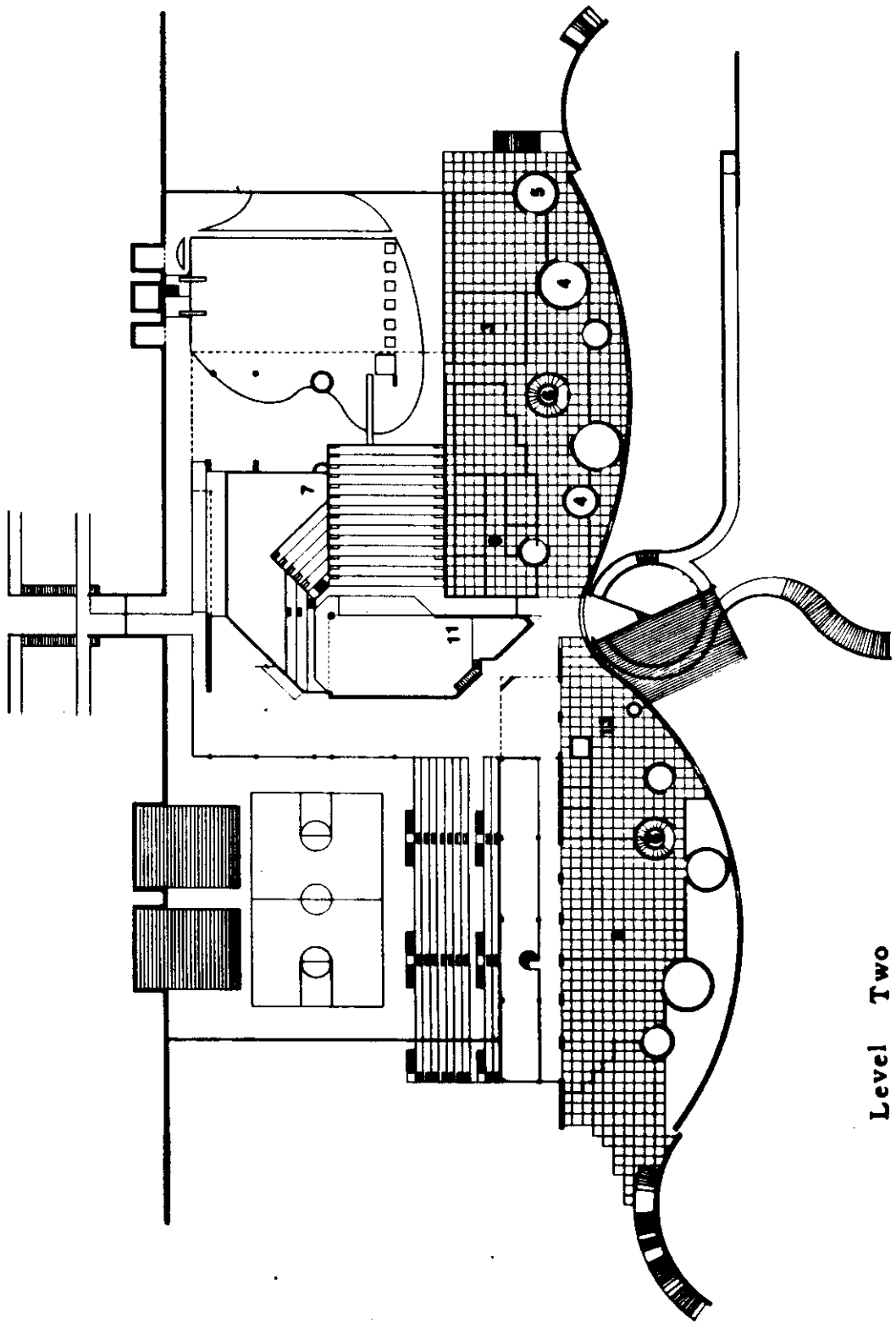
I can only design a building for myself. Gone are the noble notions of building a great society. My motivations for designing this building were to explore the ground between existentialism and rationalism. Design is a vehicle for my personal use whether my motives are self analysis or to explore and idea. Using personal motivations and goals in design have kept me authentic in my designs. Copying someone else's work would have no meaning to me because the thought would not be behind it.

In the end the assemblage that is a building is that way because that is the way I want it to be. All other excuses are merely word games.

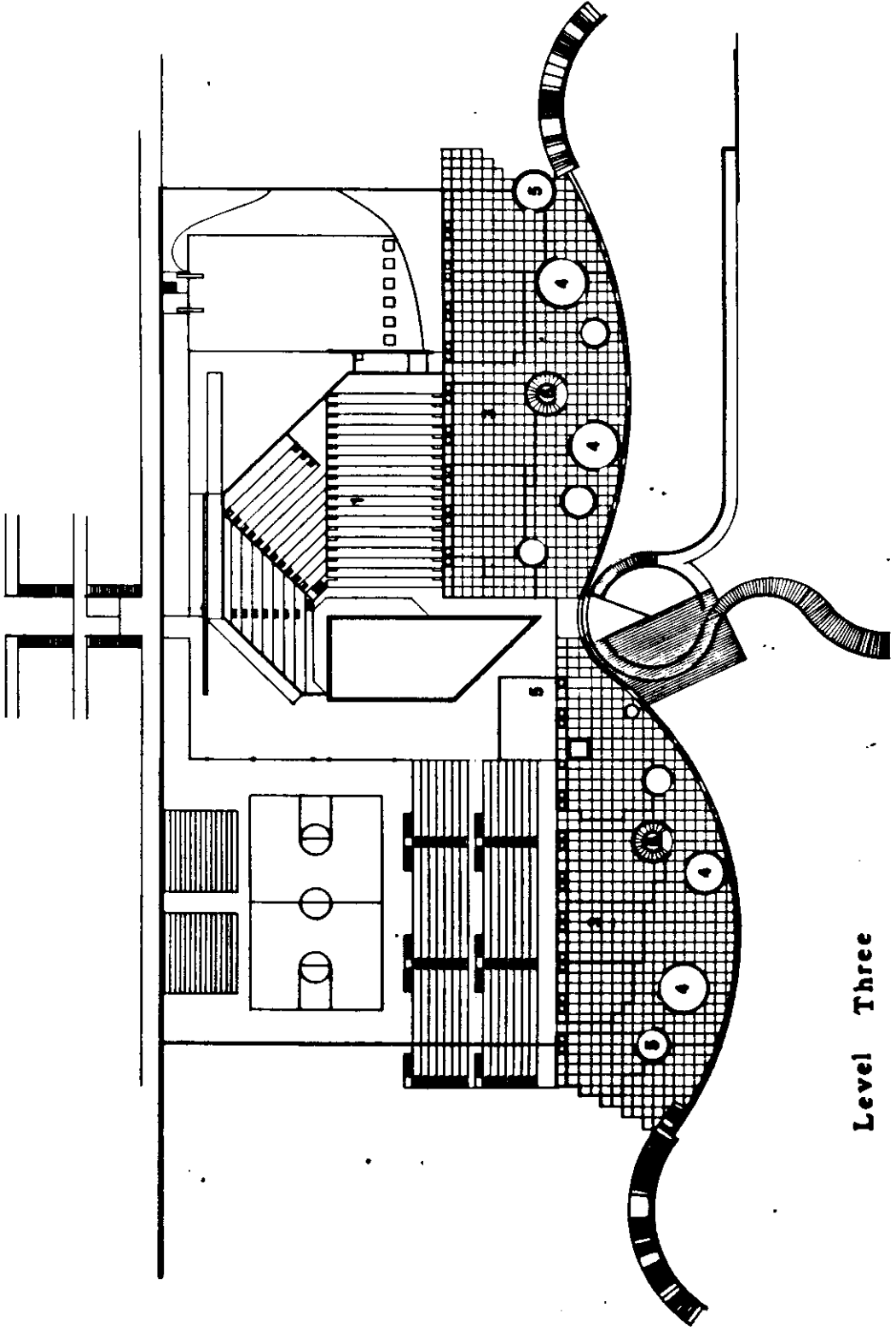


- 1. AUDITORIUM
- 2. MUSIC ROOM
- 3. CLASSROOM
- 4. STUDENT LOUNGES
- 5. TEACHER OFFICE
- 6. BATHROOM
- 7. STORAGE
- 8. STUDIOS / SHOWS
- 9. OFFICE
- 10. LOCKER ROOM
- 11. STAGE
- 12. MECHANICAL
- 13. KITCHEN
- 14. TELEVISION STUDIO
- 15. LIBRARY

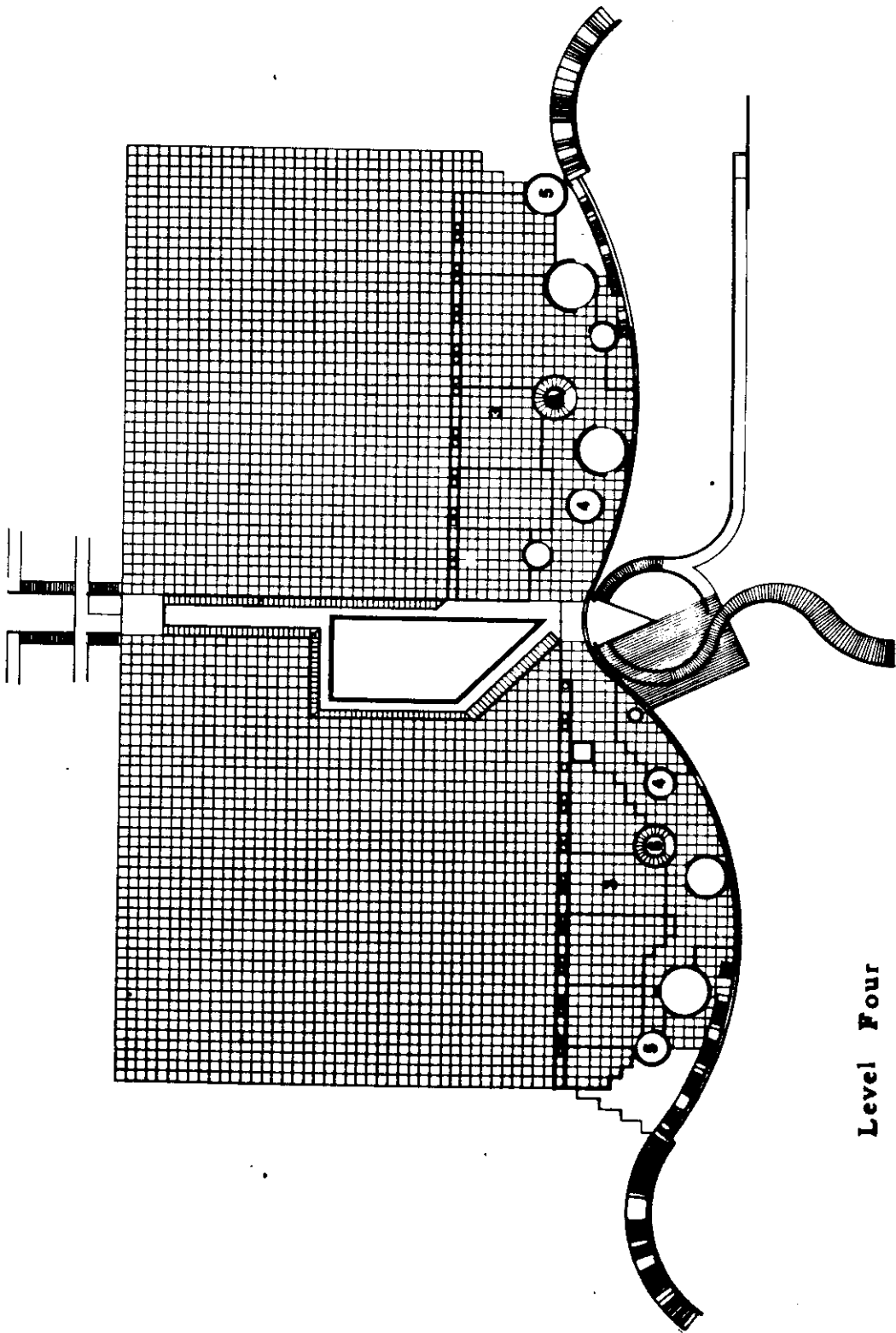
Level One



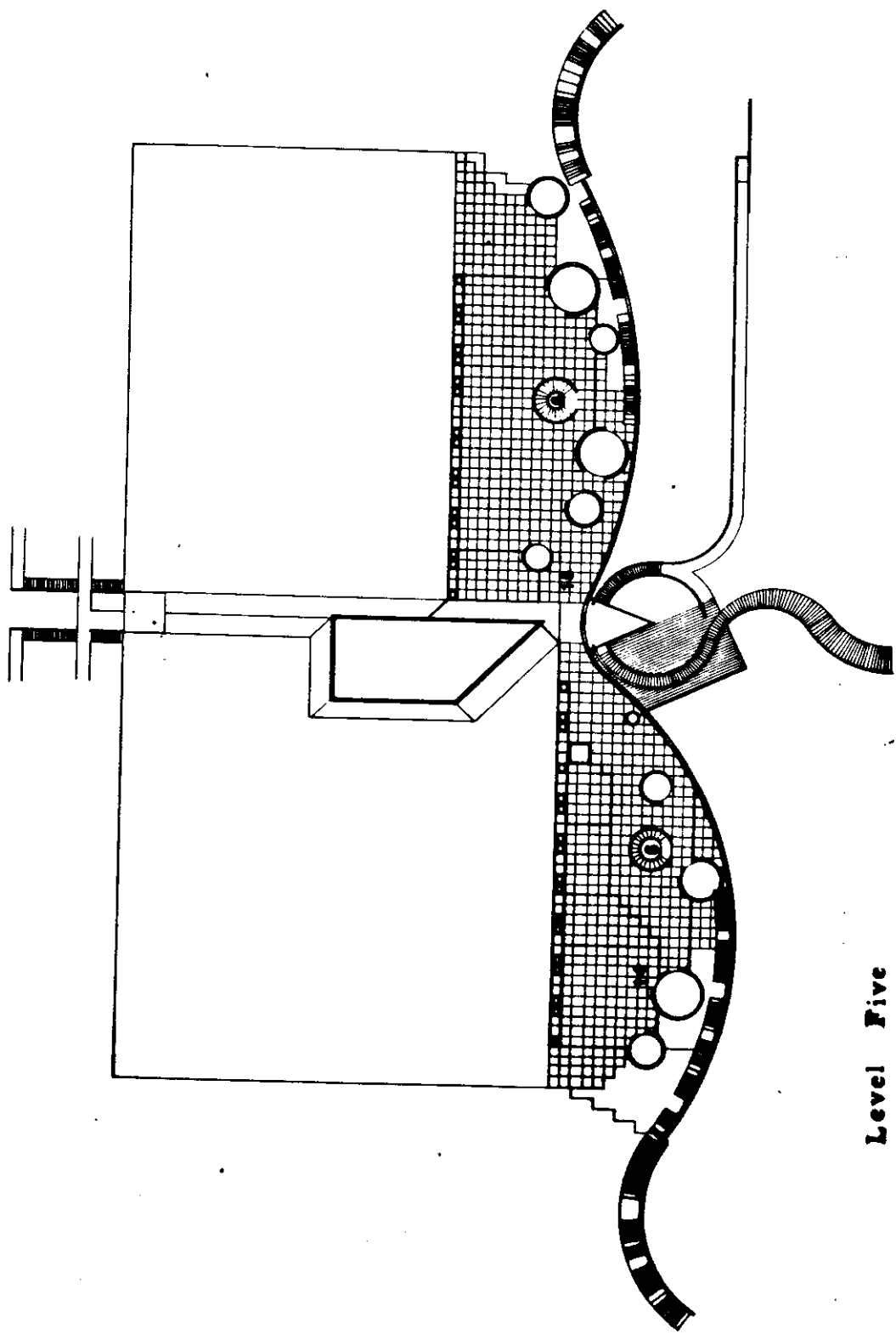
Level Two



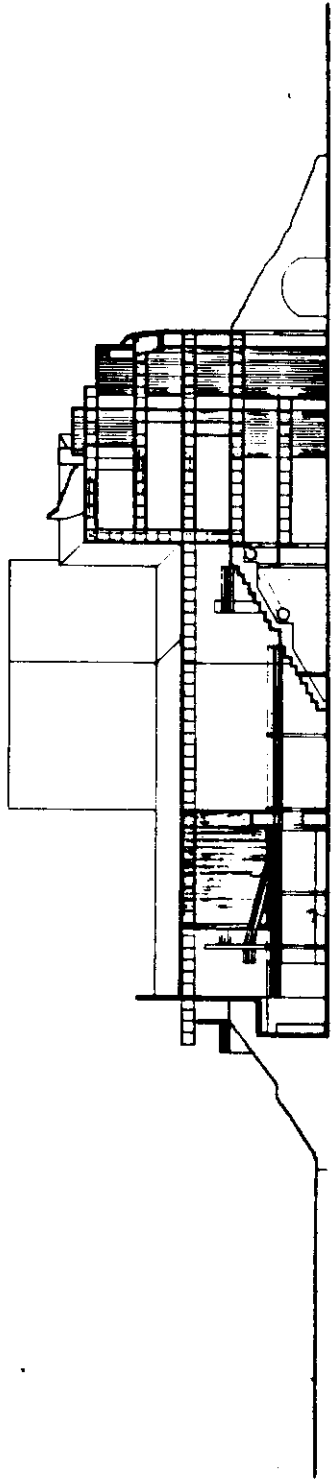
Level Three



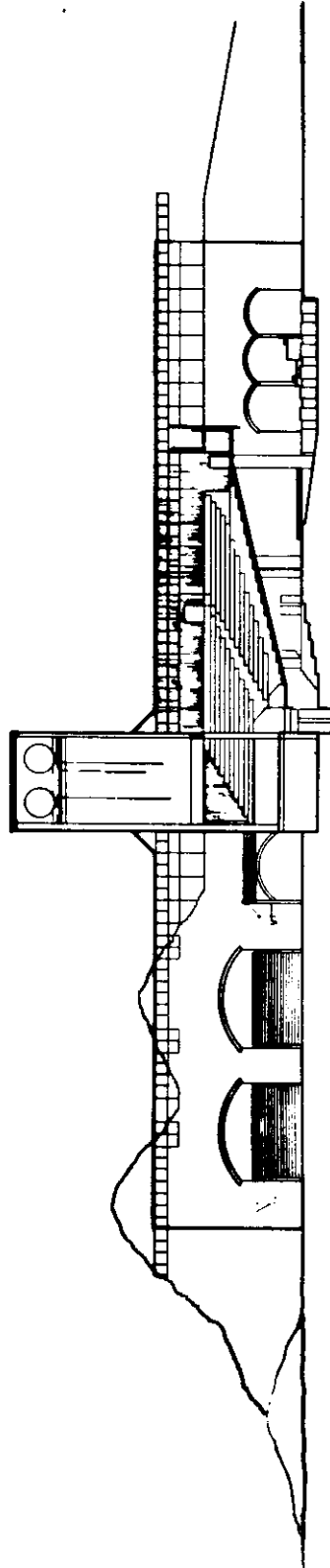
Level Four



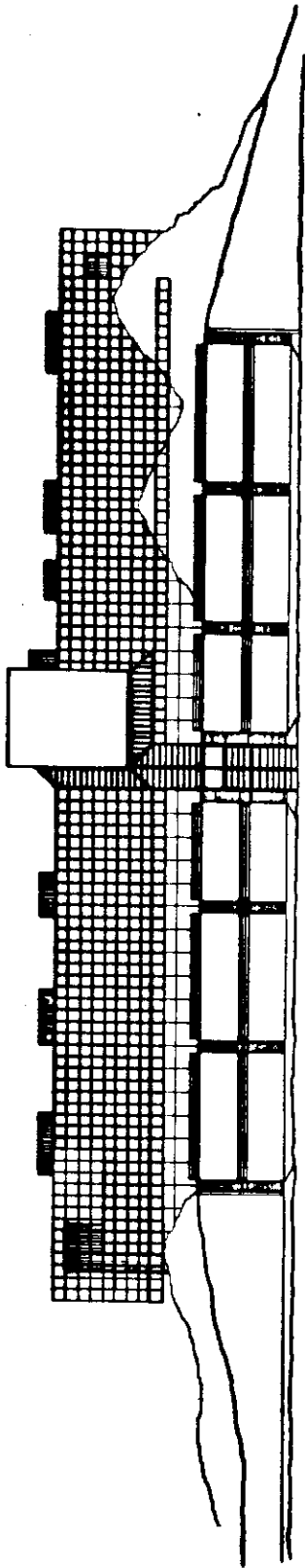
Level Five



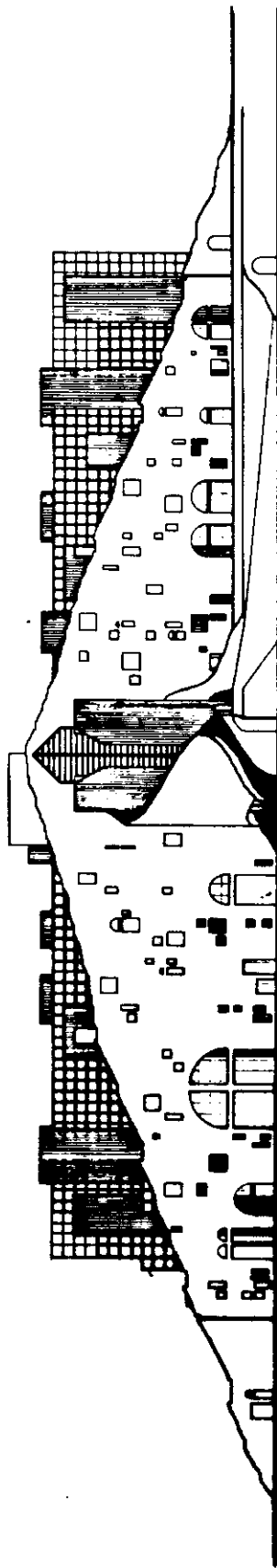
Section B—B



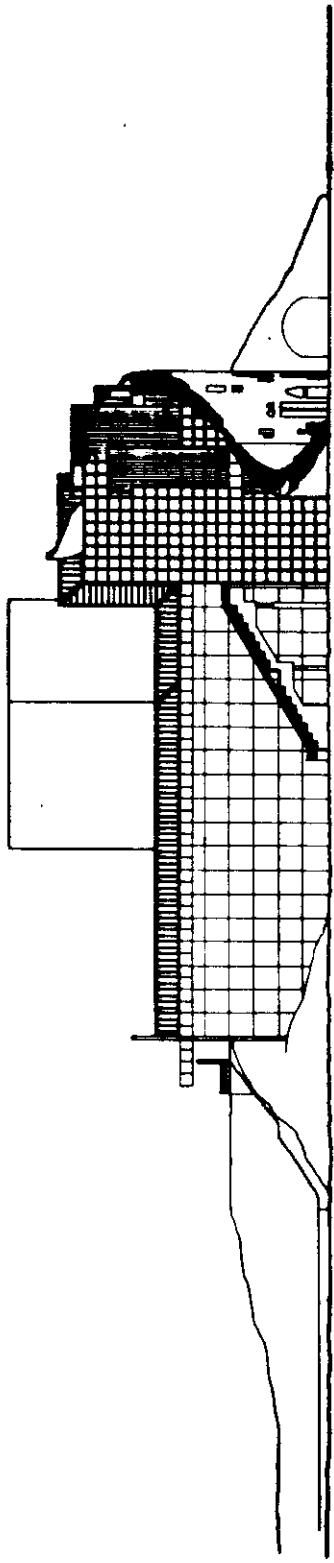
Section A—A



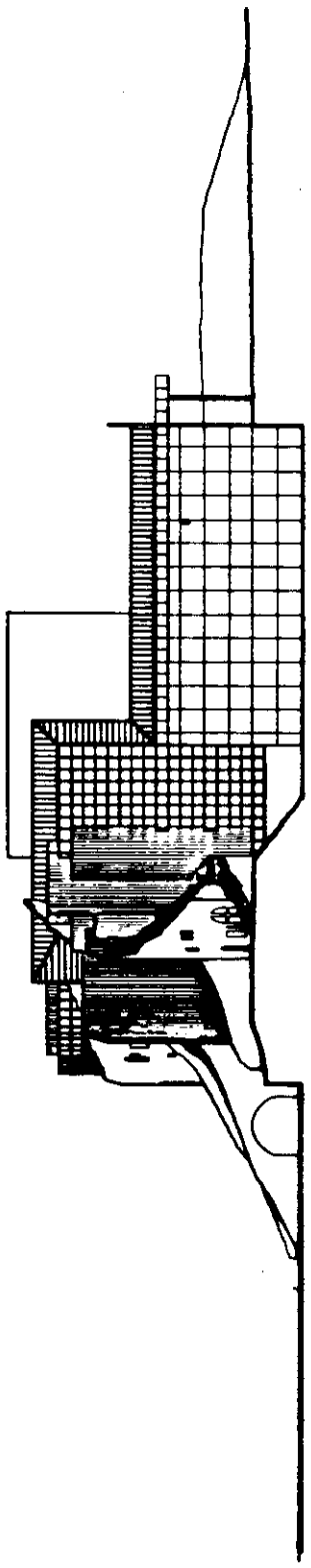
North



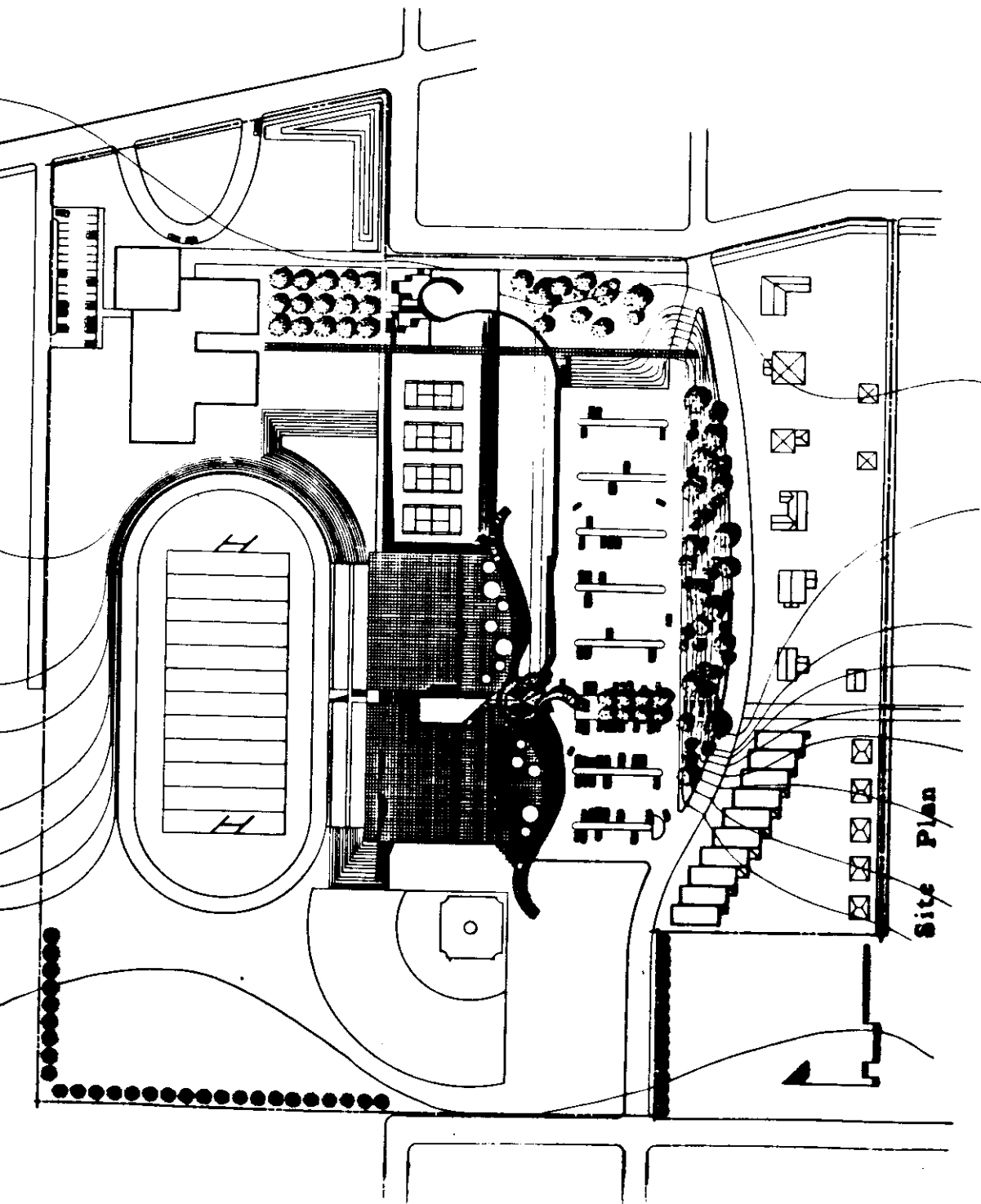
South



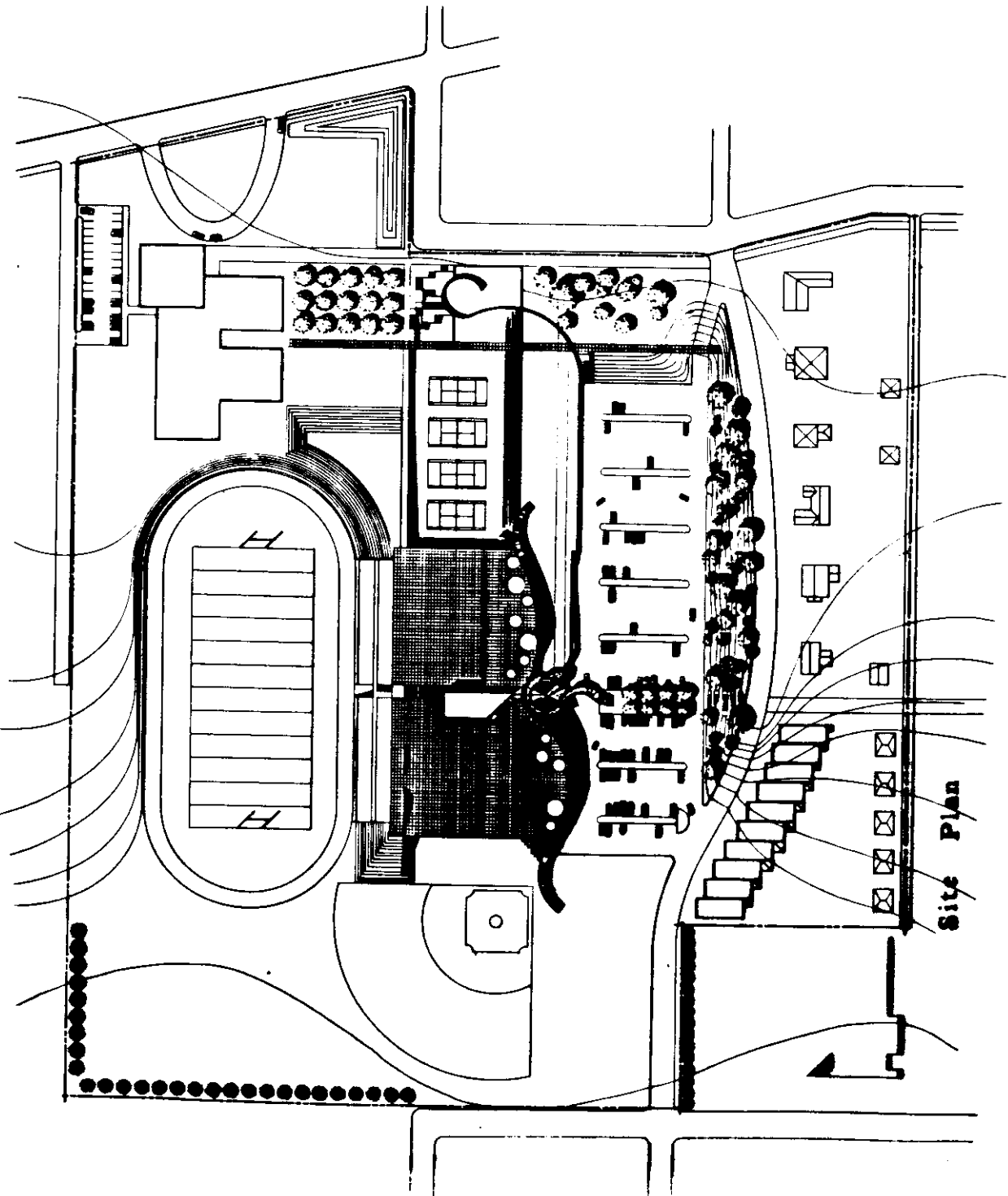
West



East



Site Plan



Site Plan